

Lt. Governor Outlines Action Plan Addressing Critical Central Valley Workforce Needs

MERCED – Continuing to address workforce shortages and critical higher education needs in California, Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi today outlined his action plan to meet these needs and sustain California's economic future in a keynote speech at the Annual Merced County Economic Development Corporation Meeting. The Lt. Governor outlined a plan to boost the productivity of our state, the opportunity of our students and the success of our businesses through the State's higher education systems.

"As a University of California Regent, a California State University Trustee, and the Chair of the Commission for Economic Development, I will work to better define the role these institutions play in our economy and to build consensus for a long-term strategic plan to improve state productivity, the opportunity of our students and the success of our businesses."

To address the critical needs of California businesses and workers, Lt. Governor Garamendi today pledged to bring together business and labor leaders and California's higher education institutions to address the critical need for career technical education.

Garamendi said he will partner with students, faculty and higher education leadership to build a groundswell of support for increased public investment in higher education. And to ensure that California's economy is strong over the long term, he will bring together leaders from the CSU, the UC and the California Commission for Economic Development to develop a workforce plan for the future – one that will meet the need of business, labor and students.

Lt. Governor Garamendi spent all of Thursday in Merced County discussing economic development and workforce needs with local business and education leaders at the MCEDCO meeting and during his tours of Merced College, Joseph Farms Cheese Plant and the Safeway Incorporated Preserve Plant.

In addition to his role as Chair of the Commission for Economic Development, the Lieutenant Governor serves as a member of the governing boards of the University of California and California State University. Upon taking office, Garamendi pledged to use his role in these institutions to aggressively promote the creation of new, high wage jobs and build a sustainable economy for California's future.

For Immediate Release

December 13, 2007

Contact: Mike Roth

916-445-8994